

Montana Outdoors

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PHOTOGRAPHY ISSUE





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IMAGINE HUNTING FOR ELK on the moon. No boisterous chickadees. No scampering mink. No ghostly swans migrating overhead. Just you and the elk.

Consider fishing for rainbow trout in a swimming pool. Forget the sight of ospreys, the sound of warblers, the smell of wild mint crushed underfoot. Nothing but trout. Think of any type of hunting, fishing, hiking, or wildlife watching in a setting without Montana's great and diverse range of birds, reptiles, butterflies, trees, flowers, grasses, and other plants and critters that make up a healthy and vibrant natural world. It wouldn't be right.

And it wouldn't work. Without the crickets and grasshoppers that chicks feed on, there would be no wild adult pheasants. Without perch—which eat minnows, which eat zooplankton, which eat algae—most walleye populations would die out. You may hate mosquitoes, but bats and dragonflies would struggle to survive were it not for the buzzing hordes.

For much of the year, *Montana Outdoors* focuses mainly on the fish and wildlife superstars—elk, deer, grizzlies, geese, grayling, cutthroat trout, and so on. It's these species that attract the most attention and controversy. But in this, our yearly photo issue, we give special consideration to the supporting cast. Only about 85 species of wildlife and fish are designated as game animals in Montana. Yet more than 700 different nongame wildlife species can be found here, not to mention hundreds of plant species. This oft-ignored life deserves our attention, if for no other reason than for sustaining the species we do care most about.

"The universe would be incomplete without man," wrote the great naturalist John Muir, "but it would be incomplete without the smallest microscopic creature that dwells beyond our conceitful eyes and knowledge."

Anyone who spends time in Montana's outdoors—particularly photographers, with their keen eye for the strange and marvelous—sees the great truth in that.

—Editor



NOTE: Help support the management of Montana's nongame wildlife species by making a donation on your state income tax form this year.

ABOVE: A NORTHERN FLICKER PEERS FROM ITS NEST HOLE IN THE GALLATIN VALLEY. Herb Eighmy

BACKGROUND: CANADA GEESE STROLL ACROSS FROZEN LOWER STILLWATER LAKE. Steven Gnam

OPPOSITE PAGE: BITTERROOT VALLEY LONG-EARED OWLETS GAPE AT INTRUDERS. Erwin & Peggy Bauer

COVER: A STATELY BIGHORN SHEEP RAM RESTS AT GLACIER NATIONAL PARK. Kerry T. Nickou

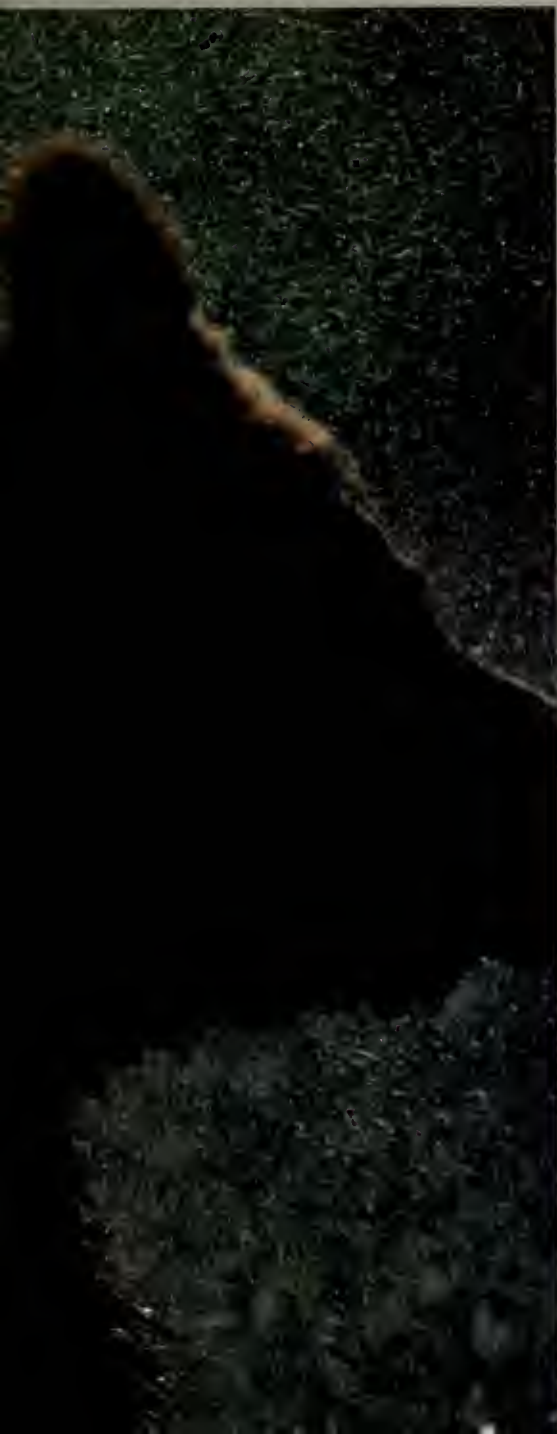
Montana Outdoors

Volume 35, Number 1

Sing Ho! For the life of a Bear!

—A.A. Milne





LEFT: A GRIZZLY BEAR SHAKES OFF AFTER A MORNING DIP. *Bill Frick*

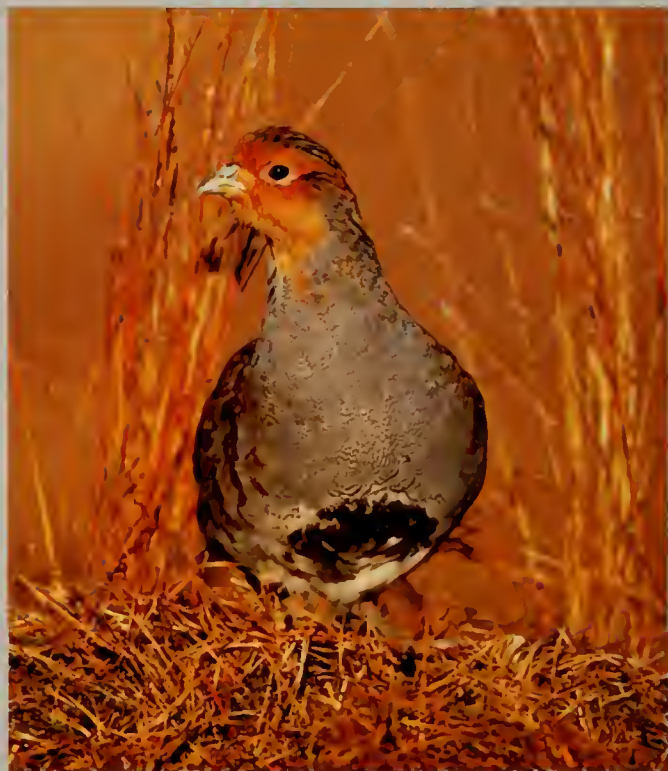
ABOVE: SECURE IN ITS CONIFEROUS HIDEOUT, A YOUNG BLACK BEAR WAITS FOR STRANGERS TO PASS. *Patricia M. Jones*



ABOVE: A SANDHILL CRANE STALKS INSECTS, SNAILS, AND OTHER FOODS IN A WET FARM FIELD.

RIGHT: HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE, IMPORTED TO MONTANA IN THE EARLY 1920S, CAN BE FOUND IN EVERY COUNTY EAST OF THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE.

FAR RIGHT: NO ONE HAD EVER SEEN A WHITE-FACED IBIS IN MONTANA UNTIL THE 1970S, WHEN THE STATELY WADING BIRDS BEGAN APPEARING AT BENTON AND BOWDOIN LAKES.







Montana state parks add greatly to the state's quality of life. They are places for rest, rejuvenation, and relaxation, where families can get away from the noise and stress of the modern world.

—GLENN ALEXANDER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE PARK DIRECTORS

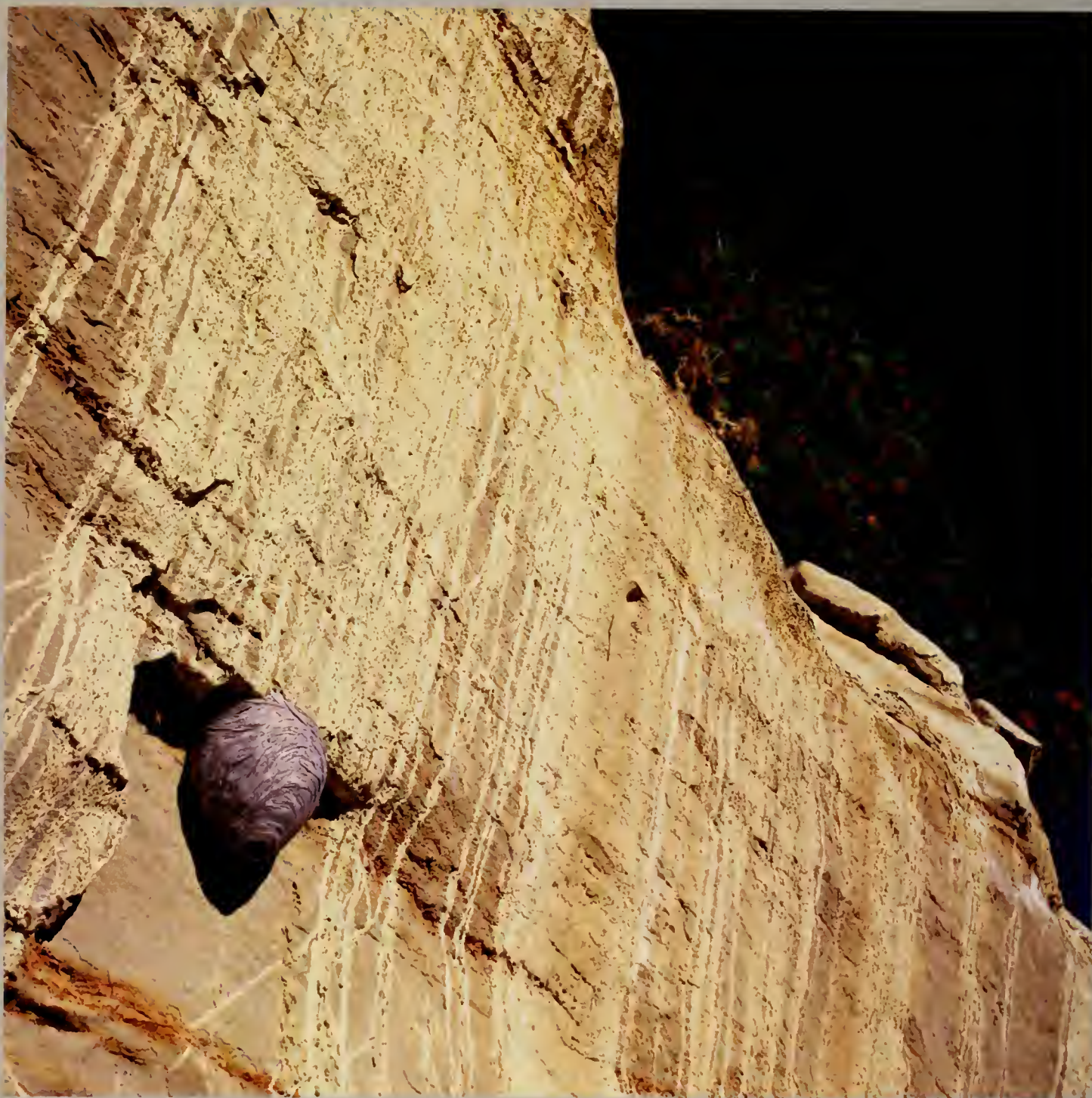




ABOVE: A RISING SUN COLORS ONE OF MONTANA'S GREAT URBAN OUTDOORS ATTRACTIONS, LAKE ELMO STATE PARK IN BILLINGS. *Scott J. Smith*

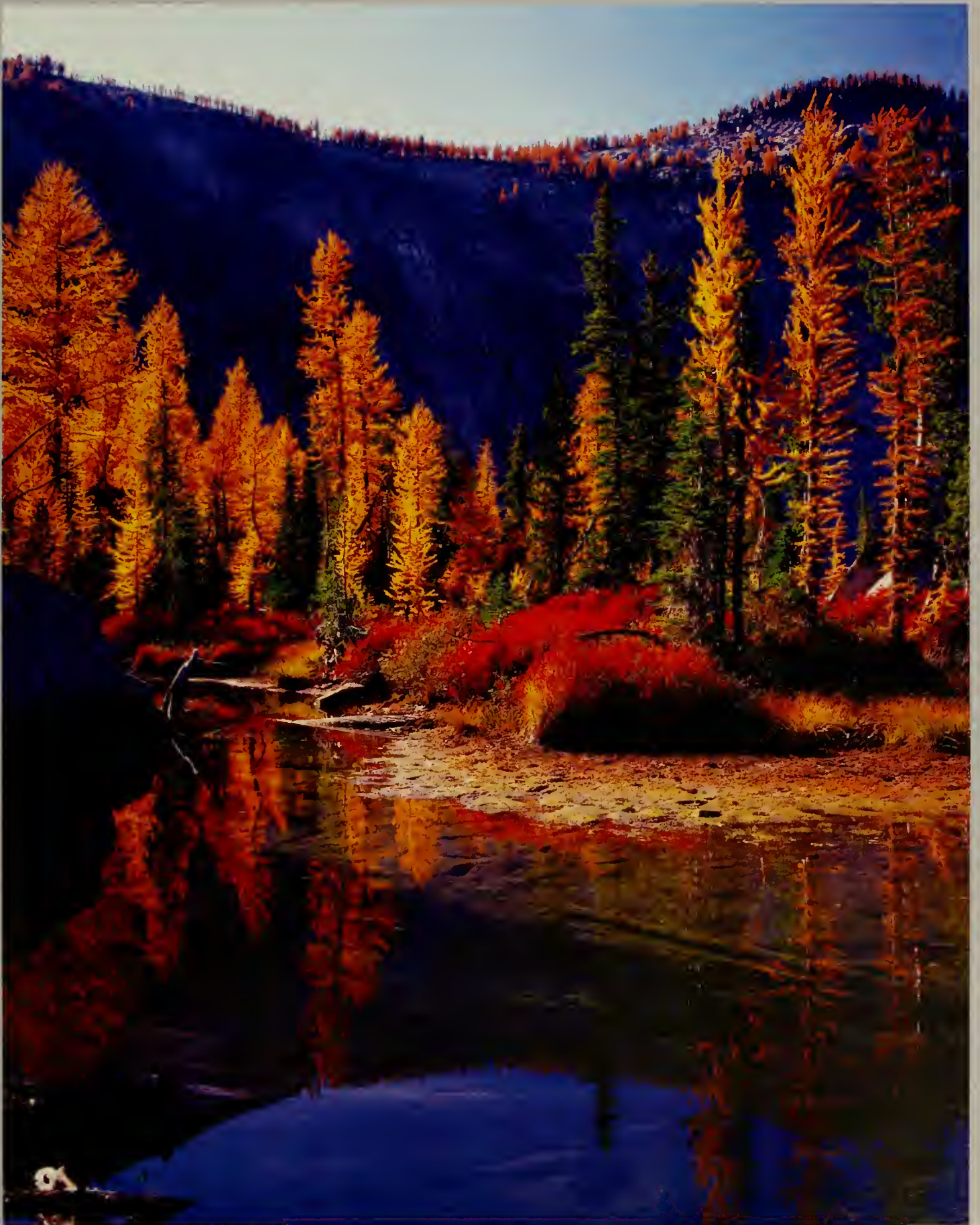
TOP LEFT: TRUMPETER SWANS GLIDE ALONG THE YELLOWSTONE RIVER'S SMOOTH WATERS. *Camille L. Delaney*

LEFT: ARROWLEAF BALSAMROOT BLANKET THE HILLS OF WILD HORSE ISLAND, A UNIT OF FLATHEAD LAKE STATE PARK. *John J. Uhlir*



ABOVE: A WASP'S NEST CLINGS TO WHITE CLIFFS ALONG THE MISSOURI RIVER. *Photo by David H. Williams*

RIGHT: TAMARACKS BEGIN THEIR AUTUMN TRANSFORMATION IN THE CHIAFFIN CREEK DRAINAGE, SELWAY BITTERROOT WILDERNESS AREA. *Photo by David H. Williams*





The worst sin toward our fellow creatures is not to hate them, but to be indifferent to them; that's the essence of inhumanity.

—GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

LEFT: A PAINTED TURTLE EMERGES FROM DUCKWEED TO SOAK UP SOME SUN. *Paul Begg*

RIGHT: A *BUFO BOREAS*, COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE WESTERN TOAD, IS GENTLY HELD BY A YOUNG *HOMO SAPIENS*. *Dale V. Sparks*

BELOW: A COMMON GARTER SNAKE OPENS WIDE. *Judy Mantoloni*





ABOVE: AT ONE-ACRE PARKER HOMESTEAD STATE PARK, NEAR THREE FORKS, VISITORS CAN SEE A SOD-ROOFED CABIN SIMILAR TO THOSE THAT HOUSED MANY MONTANANS DURING THE EARLY DAYS OF SETTLEMENT.

—Tom O'Connell

RIGHT: A RIDER PAUSES ATOP FORTRESS MOUNTAIN, IN THE GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST.

FAR RIGHT: THE HOTEL MEADE, BUILT AS A COURTHOUSE IN 1875, IS ONE OF THE PRIME ATTRACTIONS OF BANNACK STATE PARK.

—David Lamb



..In every true Montanan there is something that says, 'I am a last holdout.'

—DAVID LAMB
A Sense of Place: Listening to Americans







ABOVE: SLEEK AND GRACEFUL IN HER TAWNY SUMMER COAT, A WHITETAIL DOE GRAZES ALERTLY. *Harold A. Jones*



LEFT: A BULL AND COW ELK TOUCH NOSES AMID AN OCTOBER STORM.

Chris Evers

FAR LEFT: LIKE A SCENE FROM AN OLD WESTERN, BISON CHARGE DOWN A RIDGE OVERLOOKING BIGHORN CANYON, ON THE CROW INDIAN RESERVATION.

Jack Sullivan



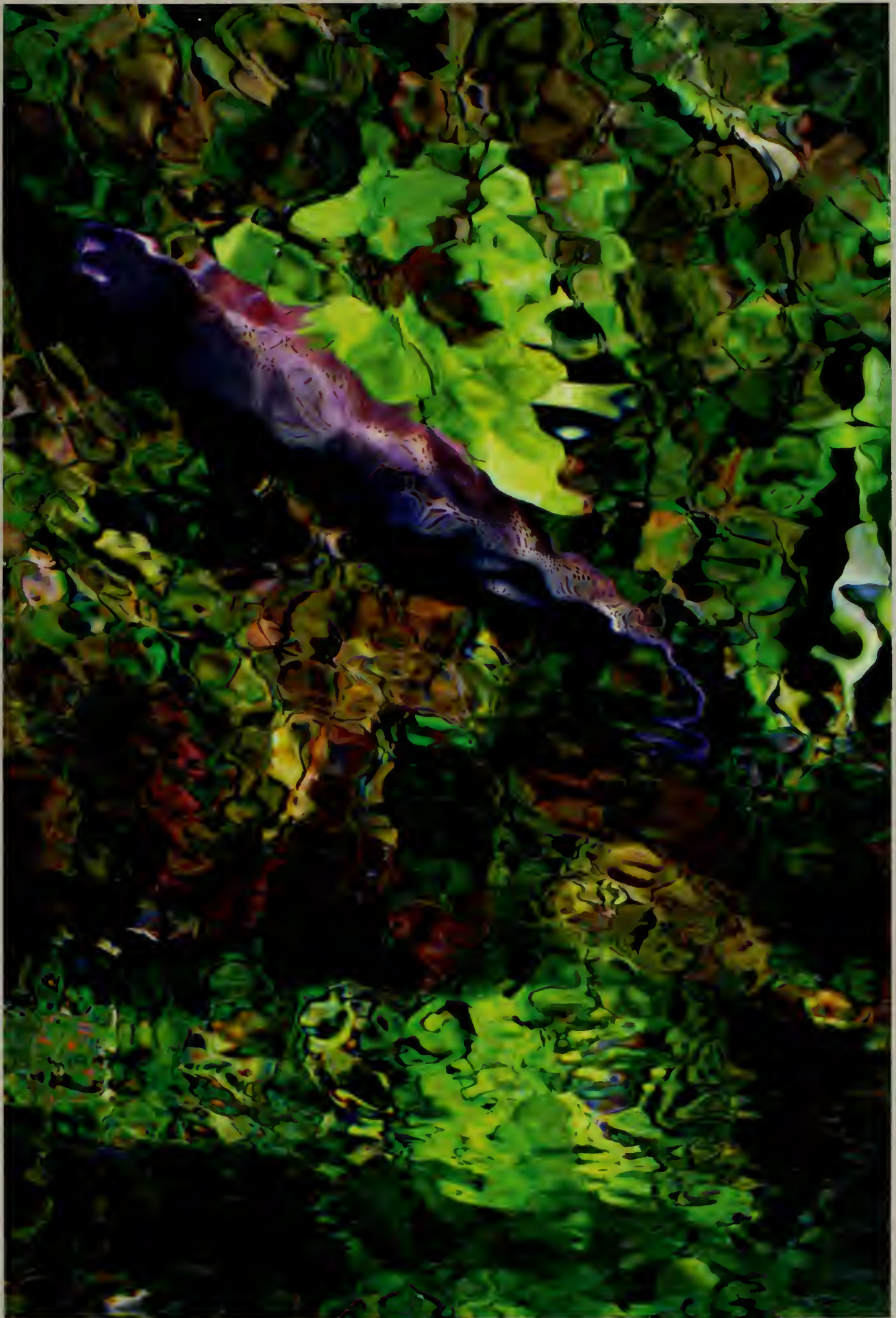
ABOVE: FIRMLY HOOKED, A BROWN TROUT HEADS TO THE RIVER BOTTOM.



LEFT: A MEMBER OF THE TROUT FAMILY, THE ARCTIC GRAYLING IS EASILY IDENTIFIED BY ITS LARGE, SAIL-LIKE DORSAL FIN.

OPPOSITE: SUNLIGHT CREATES KALEIDOSCOPIC PATTERNS ON AND AROUND A RAINBOW TROUT AT GIANT SPRINGS STATE PARK.

FOLLOWING PAGES: DURING A RARE WINDLESS MOMENT, EMIGRANT PEAK REFLECTS OFF THE YELLOWSTONE RIVER'S GLASSY WATERS IN PARADISE VALLEY, NEAR LIVINGSTON.











LEFT: A NERVOUS RED FOX MOTHER RETURNS TO HER PUPS AFTER FORAGING FOR FOOD.

ABOVE: A SPLENDID SCENE OF TREES AND SHORE IS MIRRORED BY PHYLLIS LAKE, IN THE ANACONDA PINTLER WILDERNESS.

Gardening is civil and social, but it wants the
vigor and freedom of the forest and the outlaw.

—HENRY DAVID THOREAU



ABOVE: A BULL ELK DASHES ACROSS MISSION CREEK
IN THE NATIONAL BISON RANGE AT MOIESE.

by George F. Mobley

ABOVE RIGHT: TWO WHITETAIL BUCKS FIGHT
TO ASSERT DOMINANCE.

by George F. Mobley

RIGHT: ANTELOPE BUCKS WAIT OUT THE RAIN IN THE
NATIONAL BISON RANGE AT MOIESE.

by George F. Mobley



In all things of
nature there is
something of the
marvelous.

—ARISTOTLE

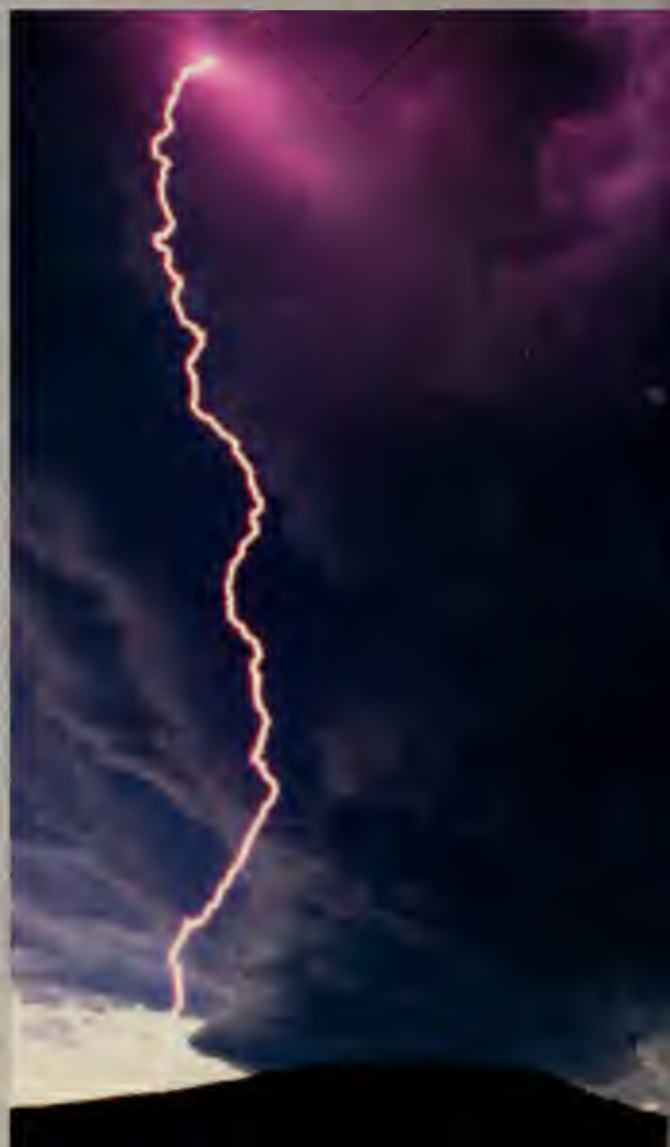


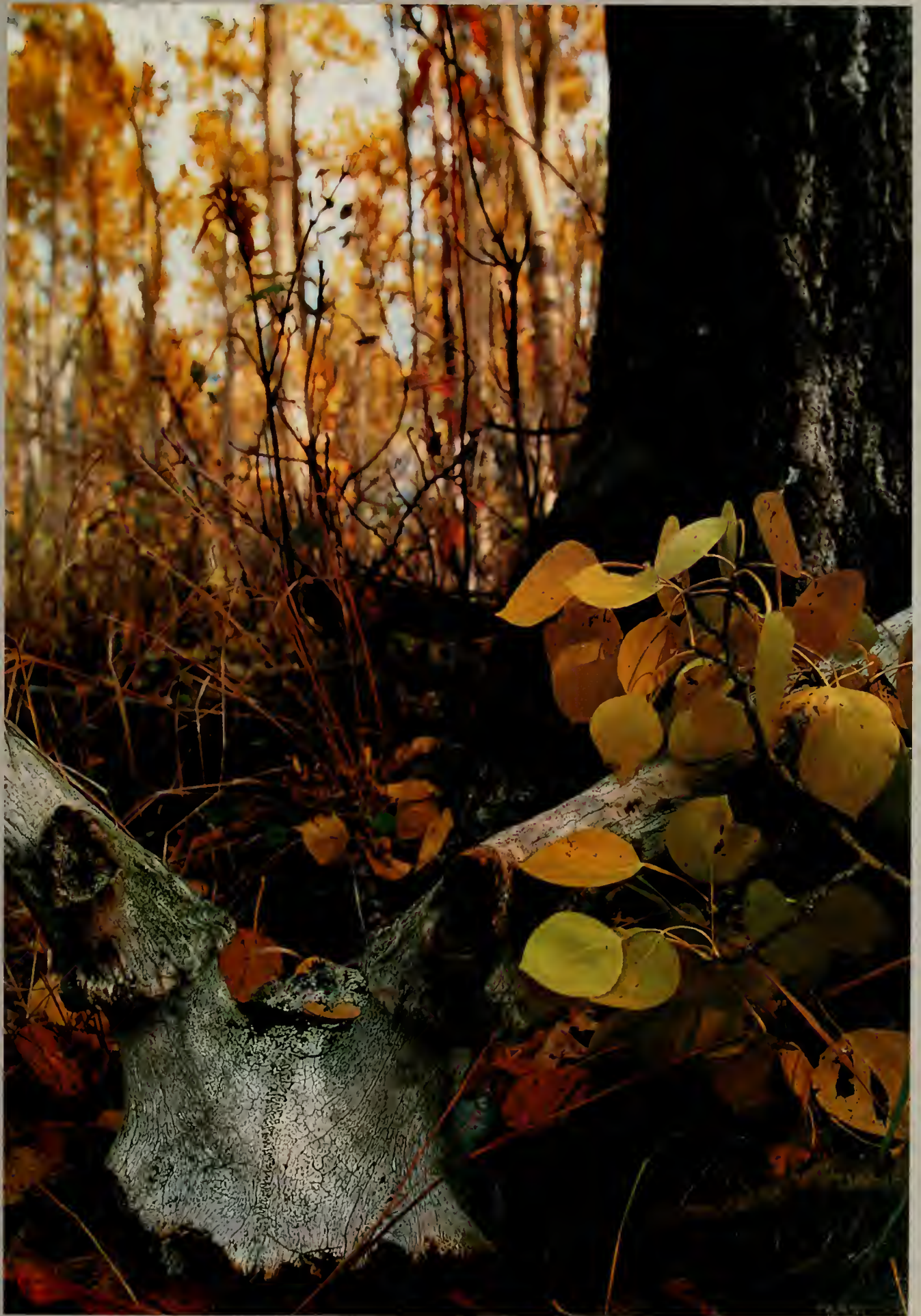
ABOVE: RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRDS REACH MONTANA IN LATE MAY AND STAY FOR THE SUMMER. *© Jeffery M. Smith*

LEFT: ROBIN EGGS HATCH 12 TO 14 DAYS AFTER THE LAST ONE IS LAID. *© Jeffery M. Smith*

RIGHT: AN OLD DEER SKULL DECAYS IN A QUAKING ASPEN GROVE. *© Jeffery M. Smith*

BELOW: A LIGHTNING STRIKE ILLUMINATES STORM CLOUDS WITH A PURPLE HUE. *© Jeffery M. Smith*









ABOVE: A SUMMER RESIDENT ACROSS MUCH OF MONTANA, THE LAZULI BUNTING IS SOMETIMES CONFUSED WITH THE WESTERN BLUEBIRD. *Photo © Jeremy*

LEFT: THE FISH-EATING DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT IS FOUND THROUGHOUT MOST OF MONTANA NEAR RIVERS, PONDS, AND RESERVOIRS. *Photo © Jeff Menden*



The most striking and characteristic of this widely varied vegetation is the *Cactaceae*—strange, leafless, cactus-like plants with beautiful flowers in every way able to

LEFT: A BULL SNAKE'S SYMMETRICAL PATTERNS CONTRAST WITH THE RANDOM ONES ON A BOULDER. (PHOTO BY JEFFREY M. HARRIS)

BELOW: COLORED LICHENS CREATE ORGANIC ROCK ART. (PHOTO BY JEFFREY M. HARRIS)

RIGHT: PRICKLY PEAR CACTUS BLOOM NEAR GARDINER. (PHOTO BY JEFFREY M. HARRIS)



teristic part
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rs and fruit,
admirable.

—JOHN MUIR





LEFT: A QUAKING ASPEN LEAF, ILLUMINATED FROM BEHIND. (Drew G. Allen)

BELOW: REFLECTIONS OF ICICLES AT BOWMAN LAKE IN GLACIER NATIONAL PARK CREATE A WINTRY CROCODILE SMILE. (Chris H. Jones)

RIGHT: A CREEK BELOW BLACKFOOT GLACIER IN GLACIER NATIONAL PARK REFLECTS THE GLOW FROM ONE OF SEVERAL FOREST FIRES THAT IGNITED THE PARK IN 2003. (Heath C. Kopp)









*LEFT: FROM OUT OF A BLACK-EYED SUSAN CLIMBS
A CHECKERED BEETLE COATED IN POLLEN.*

*FAR LEFT: ALONG THE SHORE OF SEELEY LAKE,
A SILVERY BLUE BUTTERFLY FLUTTERS.*

BELOW: A SNAIL HURRIES HOME.







Rivers and the inhabitants
of the watery elements
are made for wise men
to contemplate.

—Izaak Walton

ABOVE: RED FINGERS NEARLY FROZEN, TWO
“WISE” ANGLERS TIE ON A FLY THEY HOPE WILL
DUPE A COLD-WEATHER TROUT. *—Steve Delaney*

LEFT: A MONSTER RAINBOW TROUT IS RELEASED
BACK INTO A SPRING CREEK. *—James Hagan*

RIGHT: SHROUDED IN FOG, AN ANGLER WORKS THE
BANKS FOR UNSUSPECTING FISH. *—James Hagan*





ABOVE: CRYSTAL CLEAR WATERS BUBBLE UP FROM GIANT SPRINGS AT THE STATE PARK BY THAT NAME IN GREAT FALLS.

BELOW: ONCE A MINING MECCA, BELT CREEK CANYON IN CENTRAL MONTANA IS TODAY PRESERVED AS SLUICE BOXES STATE PARK.

RIGHT: DAWN AT BIGHORN CANYON, WHICH CUTS THROUGH THE WYOMING-MONTANA BORDER 50 MILES SOUTH OF BILLINGS.



There are days which occur
in this climate, at almost any
season of the year, wherein the
world reaches its perfection,
when the air, the heavenly
bodies and the earth, make a
harmony, as if nature would
indulge her offspring....

— RALPH WALDO EMERSON



PARTING SHOT

SKY WATCHER

Photographer John McNeal, of Pompeys Pillar, calculates when Mars (below left), the moon, and Venus (right) will be in conjunction relative to different scenic foreground landscapes. He captured this image early one summer morning along the Yellowstone River at the Captain Clark Fishing Access Site, near Custer.



Montana Outdoors January/February 2004

